

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT MASTER'S THESIS POLICY (16 December 1992)

A computer science masters thesis should deal with an issue of military or general interest, providing an original contribution to the theory and/or practice of computer science. A thesis must adhere to the following guidelines.

a. Each thesis must have either a thesis advisor or two co-advisors. Each advisor must be currently active in research relating to computer science. At least one advisor must be an assistant, associate, or full professor of computer science at the Naval Postgraduate School. Instructors without Ph.D. degrees, visiting scholars, and adjunct professors of computer science may not be sole thesis advisors. They may, however, be co-advisors with an assistant, associate, or full professor of computer science at the School.

b. In the case of a single advisor, each thesis must be reviewed by a second reader capable of providing an informed judgment of the quality and significance of the work. The second reader for a computer science thesis will normally be a faculty member of the Naval Postgraduate School. Students and professional staff members may not be second readers. However, adjunct and visiting professors, including postdoctoral scholars at NPS, may be second readers.

c. Each thesis must present an objectively evaluable component. Specifically, every masters thesis must show at least one of the following: (1) results (output) of computer programming; (2) mathematical proofs; (3) statistical studies; (4) results of step-at-a-time simulation or use of a system or program; or (5) solution of a real-world problem.

d. Each thesis must thoroughly review applicable previous research. Each thesis must cite some references that are neither textbooks nor work done at the Naval Postgraduate School.

e. Students must show an ability to present their work in an informative manner to their peers. The presentation is to be scheduled by the curricular office and is open to the public.

f. Joint theses are permitted. Normally, only two students will be allowed to co-author a thesis. The introduction to a joint thesis must state clearly the contribution of each author to the research and to its documentation.

g. The Computer Science Department Chairman may make exceptions to this policy.